

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00

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7/17/73 EXT 20574

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

INFO CARMISH/MAAG

USCINCEUR

SECDEF

CSA

S E C R E T STATE 140399

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, PARM, IR

SUBJECT: REDEYE MISSILES

REF: TEHRAN 4840

1. RELEASE OF TECHNICAL DATA ON REDEYE MISSILE TO IRAN,
AND SALE OF MISSILE ITSELF SHOULD GOI SO DESIRE, HAS BEEN
APPROVED. YOU MAY SO ADVISE GOI.

2. AS EMBASSY AWARE THIS DECISION FOLLOWS CAREFUL REVIEW
OF US POLICY ON REDEYE RELEASE AND IS TAKEN IN LIGHT OF
CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WE HAVE WITH IRAN DESPITE RESERVATIONS
WE HAVE ABOUT WEAPON AND OUR GENERAL DESIRE TO AVOID PRO-
LIFERATION THIS TYPE WEAPON IN MIDDLE EAST. WE WISH
TO MINIMIZE ANY RISK THAT RELEASE TO IRAN MIGHT INCREASE
PRESSURES ON US FROM OTHER FRIENDLY AREA STATES FOR SALE

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OF WEAPON. WE ALSO WISH TO BE CERTAIN HIGHEST LEVELS OF

GOI ARE FULLY APPRISED OF LIMITATIONS AND POTENTIAL RISKS INVOLVED IN MISSILE DEPLOYMENT BEFORE GOI DECISION IS TAKEN ON REDEYE ACQUISITION.

3. IN NOTIFYING GOI OF US DECISION, THEREFORE, YOU SHOULD:

(A) ADVISE GOI THAT USG CONSIDERS FACT OF RELEASE OF REDEYE DATA TO IRAN CLASSIFIED OR PRIVILEGED INFORMATION, AS WELL AS CONTENT OF DATA ITSELF WHICH ALSO CLASSIFIED. WE TRUST GOI WILL HONOR THIS DETERMINATION AND CONTROL INFORMATION ACCORDINGLY. SHOULD GOI DECIDE TO ACQUIRE MISSILE, WE HOPE KNOWLEDGE OF ACQUISITION AND DEPLOYMENT WILL ALSO BE RESTRICTED TO EXTENT FEASIBLE; (B) INFORM GOI IN SUBSTANCE AS FOLLOWS: USG HAS FOR SOME TIME BEEN CONCERNED THAT EMPLOYMENT OF REDEYE PORTABLE, HEAT-SEEKING MISSILE INVOLVES SERIOUS RISKS WHICH REDUCE ITS VALUE AND SEVERELY RESTRICT ITS EMPLOYMENT. THESE INCLUDE LACK OF FAIL SAFE FEATURE AND INDISCRIMINATE HOMING ON HEAT SOURCES WHICH MAY ENDANGER FRIENDLY FORCES UNLESS EMPLOYED WITH CAUTION AND HIGH DEGREE OF INDIVIDUAL DISCRETION. MOREOVER, SIMPLICITY OF OPERATION, SMALL SIZE AND HIGH MOBILITY OF MISSILE COULD FACILITATE DIVERSION INTO UNAUTHORIZED CHANNELS. IN HANDS OF TERRORISTS MISSILE COULD POSE SERIOUS THREAT TO COMMERCIAL OR PRIVATE AIRCRAFT WHICH WOULD BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO COUNTER. FOR THESE REASONS USG CONSIDERS THAT DEPLOYMENT OF MISSILE SHOULD BE LIMITED AND CONTROLLED WITH EXCEPTIONAL CARE; (C) STATE THAT USG BELIEVES FULL TECHNICAL BRIEFING BY US MILITARY PERSONNEL WOULD BE USEFUL AND IS PREPARED TO SEND QUALIFIED EXPERT(S) TO IRAN FOR THIS PURPOSE AT TIME CONVENIENT TO GOI.

4. WE LEAVE TO YOUR DISCRETION WHETHER NOTIFICATION TO GOI SHOULD BE THROUGH CIVILIAN AND/OR MILITARY CHANNELS, ORAL AND/OR WRITTEN. RUSH

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